

The Oneida made their contribution by a \$10,000 check dated Sept. 7, 1995, which Crain booked at the DNC, crediting himself as the fund-raiser.<sup>554</sup> The DNC received the Mille Lacs's \$15,000 contribution on Sept. 13. Sullivan understood that these contributions were the result of a combination of efforts by Crain and Mercer pursuing their respective Indian contacts, but there is no direct evidence as to what role, if any, Mercer may have played in generating these specific contributions. Mercer recalled having no direct responsibility for raising these funds. Crain did not recall that these or any specific Indian contributions related to the Hudson casino matter.

In connection with the Sept. 11 dinner, Crain also organized a series of meetings for Indian leaders with DNC and Administration officials. Hundreds of Indian leaders were in Washington that week to lobby Congress and the Administration over appropriations issues and other matters of concern to the tribes. Fowler met with various Indian leaders on Sept. 7, and heard their concerns about BIA funding cuts proposed by Sen. Slade Gorton (R-Wash.), and about incursions on tribal sovereignty. The morning after the Sept. 11 dinner, Fowler met with the Indian leaders who had attended the dinner, along with Gover, Stetson and several other tribal leaders. Fowler's notes of the meeting reflect that the focus again concerned appropriations issues and other pending legislation that the leaders saw as threatening tribal sovereignty. Summarizing the meetings' critical points in a Sept. 15 memo to Fowler, Crain reiterated the Indian perspective on the pending appropriations bill:

Without a veto threat or an actual veto, tribal leaders say Clinton/Gore will lose Indian votes and significant pledges of support. . . . Tribal leaders have asked that calls be placed to Leon Panetta and Harold Ickes to strongly recommend a

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<sup>554</sup>DNC check-tracking forms provided spaces for identification of the volunteer solicitors of contributions, as well as the professional DNC fund-raisers. On the Oneida check forms, Crain identified no solicitor.